

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /079 W

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R 232015Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9360

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3900

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, BB

SUBJ: CALLBY BARBADIAN PERMREP

1. DURING A COURTESY CALL ON SEPTEMBER 23, BARBADIAN PERMREP BLACKMAN INFORMED GOVERNOR SCRANTON THAT THE MAIN FOREIGN POLICY EMPHASIS OF THE GOB WILL BE TO WORK TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF BARBADOS. HE SAID THAT THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT WAS ESSENTIALLY A "CHANGE OF THE PALACE GUARD" AND THAT THERE ARE NO IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE NEW AND OLD GOVERNMENTS. HE CONTINUED THAT THERE WOULD BE A SHIFT IN EMPHASIS AT THE UNITED NATIONS FROM DEBATING TO SEEKING RESOURCES FOR BARBADOS. CONCERNING FORMER PRIME MINISTER BARROW'S ALLEGATIONS OF "DESTABILIZATION," BLACKMAN SAID THAT VERY FEW PEOPLE IN BARBADOS HAD BELIEVED THE ALLEGATIONS WHICH WERE A "POLITICAL SMOKESCREEN" DESIGNED TO HELP BARROW IN THE ELECTIONS.

2. BLACKMAN SAID THAT BARBADOS' MAIN INTERESTS AT THE UN WILL BE IN ECONOMIC MATTERS, IN PARTICULAR: TERMS OF TRADE, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND DEPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL. THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS NOT SATISFIED THAT RESOURCES OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES HAVE BEEN FULLY TAPPED AND EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO DO MORE.

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3. BLACKMAN INDICATED AN INTEREST IN SEEKING PRIVATE US ASSISTANCE FOR BARBADIAN DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT MANY AMERICANS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT ARE PREPARED TO HELP OTHER COUNTRIES AND HE WISHES TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE.

4. CRITICIZING THE AGRICULTURAL POLICIES OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT, BLACKMAN SAID THE MAJOR EMPHASIS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE PROBLEM OF INFLATION CAN BE SOLVED, HE SAID, BY INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND IMPROVING MARKETING FACILITIES. THE GOB WILL ALSO EMBARK ON CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS AND IS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING TWO NEW CITIES IN THE INTERIOR OF THE ISLAND TO SERVE AS AGRICULTURAL DISTRIBUTION CENTERS.

5. AMBASSADOR BLACKMAN PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: HE SPENT FOUR YEARS IN THE UK WHERE HE STUDIED LAW AND FOUR YEARS IN CANADA. HE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES APPROXIMATELY SEVEN YEARS AGO AND SPENT ONE YEAR AT LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY. HE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A "GREAT FRIEND" OF THE UNITED STATES.
SCRANTON

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